

Programs are limited to the first 15 participants. Please register at least one day in advance. Come out and enjoy your local natural areas!

**December 5th
Wildlife Walk at Bluefield
(9:00am - 12:00 pm)**

Experience a long morning walk through flatwoods and open grasslands, searching for wildlife. Geared toward hikers with the stamina to last the over 3 mile hike. Wear hiking apparel, and bring drinking water, cameras and binoculars as we trek over three miles.

**December 12th
Paleo Hammock
Archeological Walk
(9:00am - 11:00am)**

Learn about the early people of Florida with a walk back in time as we discuss the life histories of the Paleo-Indians and other early inhabitants of this area.

**December 12th
Germindis Meteor
Shower at Pinelands
(10:00pm - 1:00am)**

Come witness the best meteor shower of the year from Pinelands new observation tower. This site is west of town and away from the City lights. Call for more info.

**December 19th
Coffee with the Birds & Plants at Walton Scrub
(9:00am - 10:30am)**

Enjoy your morning cup of coffee with the birds and plants of Walton Scrub on Indian River Drive. A Naturalist will lead a walk through the unique scrub natural community and discuss the rare plants and their importance to local wildlife. Hot beverages will be provided.

**January 2nd
Lil' Tyke Hike at Ancient Oaks
(10:30am - 11:30am)**

Located just past the playgrounds within the Weldon Lewis Park, the Ancient Oaks Natural Area offers a short loop trail that winds through 150 year old oaks and cabbage palms. Join us for a scavenger-hunt based hike for children ages 2-10. Children will learn about plants seeds and how to use their senses to truly experience nature.

**January 9th
Bluefield Treasure Hunt
(9:00-11:00am)**

Come discover modern treasure-hunt adventures at Bluefield Ranch Natural Area. With the help of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units, a new outdoor hobby has been created worldwide where one can find another's hidden treasures. GPS units are optional; we will have some to use. Call for details or go online to www.geocaching.com to learn more.

**January 16th
Owl Prowl at Paleo & Teague Hammocks
(7:00-9:30pm)**

Whooh, whooh, whooh wants to see barred owls, screech owls, and great horned owls? A Naturalist will call our local feathered friends from under an oak hammock. Bring your flashlights.

**January 23rd
Coastal Plants & Worm Reef Construction
at Ocean Bay
(9:00am - 10:30am)**

Ever wondered how early inhabitants of the coastlines treated toothaches? Unique coastal vegetation, including tropical hardwood hammock plants as well as beach dune vegetation is the topic of this trip, including discussion of how early peoples put these plants to use. Then head to the beach and learn about the complex worm-reef ecosystem just offshore.

**January 30th
Spruce Bluff Archeological Walk
(9:00am - 10:30am)**

Discover a ceremonial Indian mound built thousands of years ago. Learn about the immense process of constructing it and the significance behind it. Along the way, we'll talk about various plants early Indians used for food, shelter and medicine.

**February 6th
Day Hike at Pinelands
(2:00pm - 5:00pm)**

A Naturalist will lead a hike through a set of unique flatwood natural communities that offer a variety of potential wildlife encounters. Learn a little bit about the plants, animals, and ecosystems alike while hiking the trail. Birds identified along the way will be added to the Site's bird list and help biological staff create a bird checklist for the public to use whenever hiking a St. Lucie County trail. Hikers should be prepared for a few mile hike with appropriate hiking shoes/boots.

**February 13th
Sweetwater Hammock Bird Count
(8:00 am - 10:00am)**

Join the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Volunteers count birds all across the continent and enter results into a database that provides a snapshot in time of how bird populations are doing. No experience is necessary. Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them. Go to www.birdsource.org for more info.

**February 20th
Gopher Tortoises at Bluefield
(9:00 am - 10:30am)**

Take to the trails with a Naturalist and learn about this Florida threatened species. Learn about their preferred habitat, foraging habits, natural history, and the importance of their burrows to other species.

**February 27th
Owl Prowl at Pinelands
(7:00pm - 9:30pm)**

Whooh, whooh, whooh wants to see barred owls, screech owls, and great horned owls? Staff will try to call in our local feathered friends. Please bring a flashlight.

**March 6th
Indrio Savannahs Birding Hike
(9:00 am - 10:30am)**

Bring your binoculars and come enjoy a peaceful morning among the birds of Florida. This site offers visitors a chance to view some of Florida's rare and endangered birds and belongs to the Great Florida Birding Trail. Birds commonly observed include; the Florida Scrub Jay, Bald Eagle, and a host of waders, raptors, songbirds, and wood peckers.

**March 20th
10 Mile Creek
Birding Paddle
(8:45am - 11:15am)**

You deserve a good paddling! Come experience a short paddle up creek with other intermediate paddlers to a remote rookery. Please bring your own canoe/kayak with safety gear. Meet at Ten Mile Creek Natural Area.

**March 20th
Stargazing at Bluefield
(7:00pm - 12:00am)**

Calling all stargazers! Fix your eyes on the sky, miles from the city lights, with the expertise of the local astronomy club members to help guide viewing through professional telescopes. Bring a chair or blanket to view from. Binoculars, red filtered flashlights, and bug spray are also recommended.

**March 27th
FL Scrub-Jays at Sheraton Scrub
(9:00-11:00 am)**

Come learn about the only bird species found in Florida and no where else in the world! Learn about the life history of this beautiful and unique bird, including the special habitat in which it lives and its "family values". Please bring binoculars if you have them; if we're lucky, we should be able to get a very close look at them. Bring binoculars.

**April 3rd
Spring Wildflower Botanical Walk at Indrio Savannahs
(9:00am - 10:30am)**

Celebrate spring by seeing what has bloomed in the flatwoods and in and around the depression marshes. If we are lucky we will see and identify a number of local butterflies and their host plants.

**April 10th
Butterfly Walk at Paleo Hammock
(9:00am - 11:00am)**

Come visit Paleo Hammock, home to one of the best Florida butterfly viewing areas in the County. See host plants and hundreds of butterflies in their natural setting. Our butterfly expert will walk you through the trails and discuss great ways to attract them to your own backyard.

**April 17th
Amazing Amphibians at Indrio Savannahs
(7:30pm-9:00pm)**

Learn about the natural history of the native and non-native frogs of Florida, participate in a fun hands-on exercise to learn some of their unique calls, and hike to wetlands to try to see them and hear their calls.

**April 24th
Plant Invaders and Historical Hike at St. Lucie Village
(9:00am - 11:00am)**

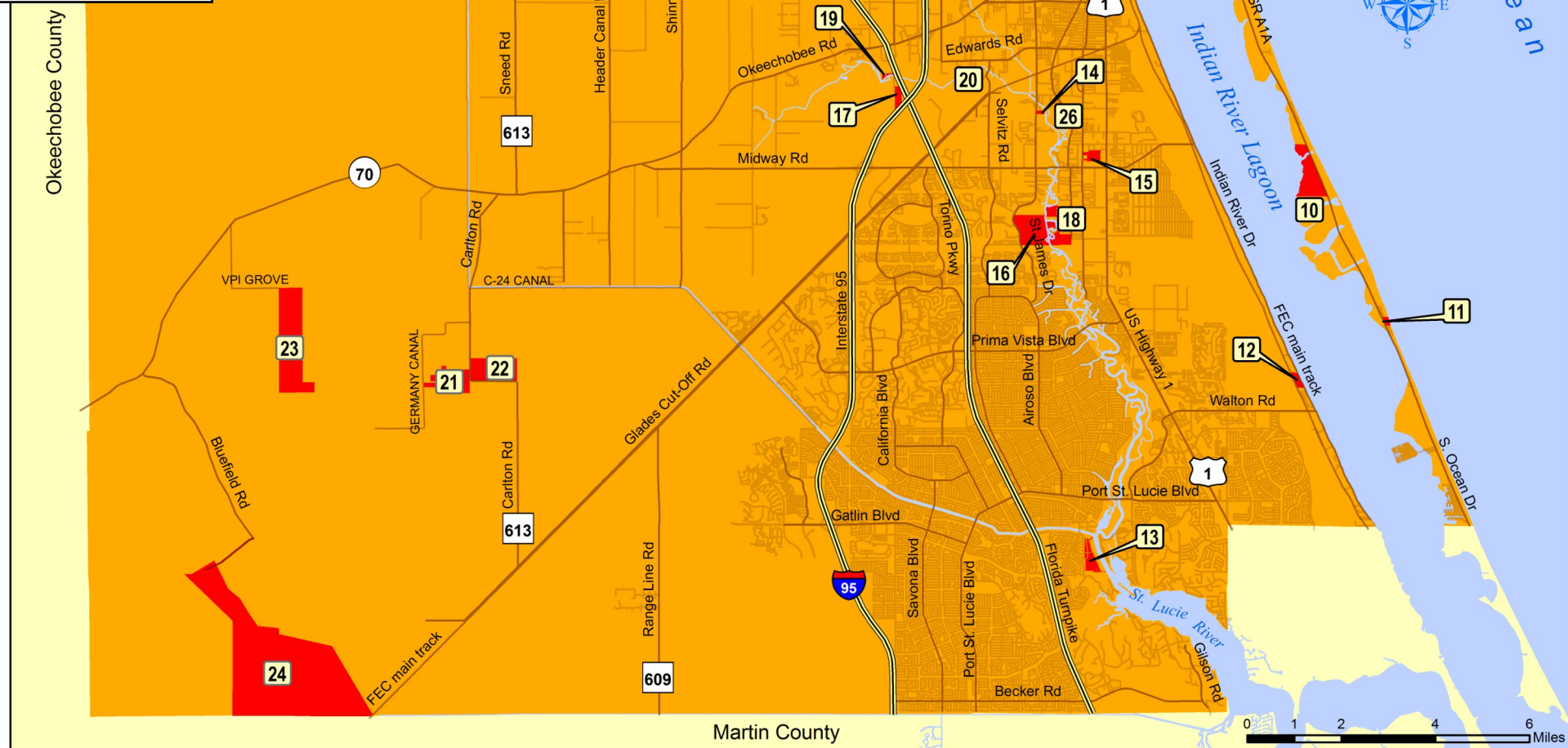
Come learn a little local history along with the plants invading St. Lucie County. A Naturalist will lead a hike to historic sites from the prohibition era and discuss plants to look out for in your own backyard.

**May 1st
Spruce Bluff Wetland Hike
(9:00am - 11:00am)**

Leave the trail behind and prepare to get wet, this hike focuses on wetland function, plants, and all the critters in between. Spruce bluff has a unique wetland system bordering Scrub and Baygall habitat. Where cloths & shoes that can be submersed.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES

1. Indrio Savannahs
 2. Indrio Scrub
 3. D.J. Wilcox
 4. St. Lucie Village Heritage Park
 5. Queens Island
 6. Kings Island
 7. Wildcat Cove
 8. Sheraton Scrub
 9. Lakewood Park Natural Area
 10. Blind Creek
 11. Ocean Bay
 12. Walton Scrub (Spring 2009)
 13. Spruce Bluff
 14. Sweetwater Hammock
 15. Ancient Oaks
 16. Oxbow Eco-Center
 17. Gordy Road Rec. Area
 18. North Fork Parcels
 19. Ten Mile Creek Natural Area
 20. George LeStrange Natural Area
 21. Paleo Hammock
 22. Teague Hammock
 23. Pinelands
 24. Bluefield Ranch
 - *25. Greene Swamp
 - *26. Platt's Creek
- * Restoration Areas



Nature Program Schedule

Winter - Spring
2009-2010

St. Lucie County
Environmental
Resources
Department

Natural Areas
and Preserves



Environmental Resources
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